

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application.

Claim Status

In the Preliminary Amendment filed on May 18, 2005, claims 2, 4, and 5 were inadvertently labeled “(original)” despite the fact that they were previously amended under PCT Article 34.

In view of this, claims 2, 4, and 5 have been labeled as --(Previously Presented)-- to correctly indicate the current status of these claims.

No other changes have been made to the pending claims.

Conclusion

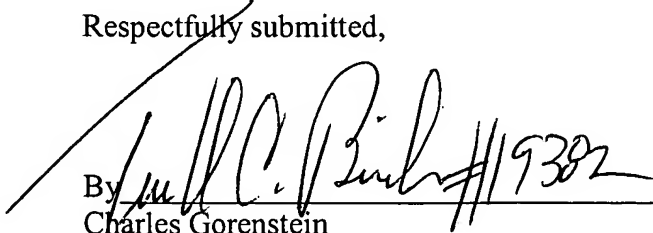
Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Charles Gorenstein (Reg. No. 29,271) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


By _____
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,271
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant